



PACM

PRISON AFTERCARE CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES

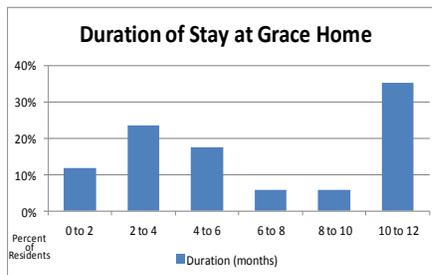
PACM News

Inside the Struggle to Start Over for Grace Home Residents

Life at Grace Home is a blessing for both the residents and the volunteers who help them through this time of transition. But it is not an easy time for many of the residents. With freedom comes a host of temptations from their past.

The one-year program that has been developed for Grace Home includes activities to keep the women's focus on positive goals for the duration of their stay. It also includes boundaries that are intended to place barriers between them and temptations. This is most important when residents first arrive since their newly-restored freedom often carries with it a strong dose of temptation. The program is designed to gradually reduce restrictions as residents become stronger in their ability to recognize and resist the things that draw them away from the positive goals they have set for themselves.

Regrettably, not all of the women who come to Grace Home stay for the full one-year program. Some leave voluntarily because they don't like the boundaries or the accountability the program requires. Some are dismissed for violation of boundaries, usually after counseling and a number of warnings.



We have seen that the greatest struggle occurs during the first two months. During this initial pe-

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Grace Home Bible Study Update

The Crown Ministry lessons from Managing Our Finances God's Way are currently being used for the Monday night Bible study with the Grace Home residents. We are blessed to have Rona Drummer, the PACM Treasurer, financial counselor for the residents and a member of Hope Community Church, as leader of this study. Rona's financial background, her current career with Elite Financial and Wise College Funding, her Biblical knowledge and her ability to relate to the residents makes her a huge blessing to the Grace Home ministry—especially where the residents are concerned.



Bible Study

the consequences of poor financial decisions is making a great impact on each life she touches. She uses Scripture to back up what she says, and the Lord uses the good, the bad and the ugly from each situation to point the residents in the direction He would have them go. The ultimate response, though, is up to each resident—just as it is for us when we sin.

Thank you Rona for all the years of service you have given for the benefit of the PACM/Grace Home ministry, for the benefit of all the residents you have counseled, and for the glory of the Kingdom's True Treasure—Jesus Christ!

Matthew 6:21 and Luke 12:34 say, "Where your treasure is, that is your heart will be also."

Finances can be a source of great conflict and temptation. Rona has been on the frontline of many battles; however, her ability to stand firm in the truth yet lovingly confront residents who are experiencing

"Brethren, even if anyone is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, so that you too will not be tempted."

Galatians 6:1

Please note that our privacy policy does not permit us to identify Grace Home residents in our publications.

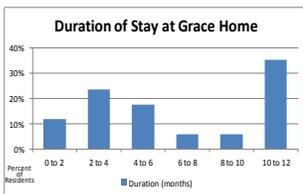
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What's Happening



Grace Home has established a relationship with StepUp for ongoing life skills training.



“It is not possible to overstate the value of Christian love and counseling for these women as they struggle through this critical time in their lives.. ”

What's New at Grace Home

Since our last newsletter, one new Grace Home resident arrived in September, and one was dismissed in October for disciplinary reasons. There are presently three residents living in the home and applications are being reviewed for the newly open space.

All of our residents are regularly attending church and all join the weekly Bible study at Grace Home. All have jobs, including the most recent arrival.

As part of the program at Grace Home, residents are required to enroll in the nine-month Life Skills educa-

tion program at StepUp Ministries. All of the current residents are actively participating in this program and our newcomer is scheduled to begin in January.

Grace Home residents are also participating in volunteer activities under the guidance of the Grace Home Coordinator, Dawn Cummings. Volunteer service is always a blessing, but as we approach the Thanksgiving holiday volunteering also gives a strong sense of perspective to our circumstances in light of the circumstances of others who are in need.

Inside the Struggle...

(Continued from page 1)

riod, the struggle generally involves pent-up desires to enjoy the freedom that has been denied by incarceration, often involving activities they remember from their troubled pasts. Also during this timeframe comes employment, and with employment comes income; and the availability of money to spend opens up additional areas of temptation; and so the struggle intensifies.

In recognition of these forces, Grace Home program policies establish relatively strong boundaries with respect to where residents are going and with whom they are spending time during the first two months. Emphasis is on building relationships with their mentor and with Christian volunteers who help with their initial material needs, medical needs, etc. Also during this, more restrictive phase, residents find a church and begin regular attendance. They also focus on finding employment; many will attend the Jobs Week training offered by StepUp Ministries. The intent is to establish a positive foundation before fully exposing them to the distractions and temptations of their new-found freedom.

The program boundaries are important, especially during the first two months, but it is necessary for everyone to learn to live responsibly in the world without artificial restrictions or boundaries. Maintaining all of these protective restrictions until the day a woman leaves Grace Home would set them up to stumble when they leave and the boundaries are suddenly removed.

So the boundaries are gradually eased during the period from two to four months, but goals and ac-

countability are maintained. Some will still struggle with temptation as the boundaries are pushed back. It is during this period that mentors play a vital role in encouraging and counseling. Also very important during this time is financial coaching and counseling.

Experience has shown that if the women who come to Grace Home can deal openly with their struggles through the first six months, they tend to overcome them and go on to complete the full year. Thus far in the history of Grace Home, all who have completed the program have gone on to lead normal, positive, and productive lives. So residents are encouraged to be open and share their struggles with their mentors, or with volunteers, or in their Bible study groups and to receive encouragement and counseling from these sources.

The Grace Home program pairs women with a mentor soon after their arrival. A Bible study is conducted weekly in the home. Also, financial coaching and budget planning assistance are provided to help them learn to manage their financial obligations responsibly from a Biblical perspective.

It is not possible to overstate the value of Christian love and counseling for these women as they struggle through this critical time in their lives. If you would like to be a mentor, lead a Bible study, act as a budget coach, plan an outing or event, be a prayer partner, or just be a friend who is willing to listen and share life experiences, you are needed. You can make a difference in the lives of these women by being a volunteer. If you would like to explore this, please contact us by emailing GraceHome@pacm-nc.org.

The ReEntry Jobs For Life Project Needs Volunteers

Contributed by Gail Carrington

The ReEntry Jobs For Life Project – a faith-based prison ministry - recently completed its fourth term at the NC Correctional Institution for Women – Minimum Custody Unit (NCCIW-MCU) in Raleigh, NC.

The ReEntry Jobs For Life Project is in need of new volunteers to become Mentors/Champions to our resident students for the upcoming 2017 term. We teach the Jobs For Life curriculum, which is an innovative, comprehensive tool to prepare students for the workplace challenges they will face once they are released. We will need a Champion for each of our ten students. Our term consists of

sixteen consecutive weeks of 2-hour classroom sessions which meet once a week at the prison.

A Champion's primary responsibility is to work one-on-one with a student, and to assist with classroom and homework assignments, provide friendship, support, guidance, and help in overcoming employment barriers.

If you are genuinely interested in this in-prison ministry opportunity, please email us at ReEntry@pacm-nc.org.

Gail Carrington is the Coordinator of the ReEntry Jobs For Life Program at NCCIW



The ReEntry team takes the *Jobs For Life* Curriculum inside of NCCIW-MCU

A Thanksgiving Thank-You To Our Partners and Friends

Contributed by Robin Thorne



"Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights..."

James 1:1-17

Thanksgiving is often overlooked due to the Christmas holiday following so closely behind it. So this article is devoted to the upcoming Thanksgiving season. We want to take this opportunity to express our thanks for all the Lord has provided for this ministry. From food donations to ministry partners, Prison Aftercare Christian Ministry has been the recipient of many blessings! Here are the sources the Lord has used to faithfully impact PACM:

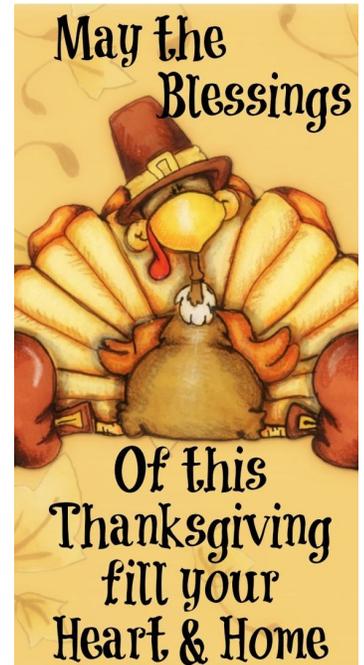
The Food Pantry Ministry of North Haven Church; StepUp Ministry; The Green Chair Project; Ready to

Rent Program; Wheels4Hope; Jobs for Life; HIS Ministry of Christ Baptist Church; Crossroads Fellowship Church; Hayes Barton United Methodist Church; Providence Baptist Church; Celebration Church; Hope Community Church; Mission Increase; Pardoned by Christ Ministry; and mentors and volunteers from various churches throughout the Triangle area.

The Lord has used you/your ministry to bring hope, encouragement and the light of Christ to ladies whose lives have been in a very dark place. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts!

"I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you. I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the Gospel from the first day until now..."

Philippians 1:3-5



Grace Home is a PACM ministry. Located in Raleigh, North Carolina, Grace Home is a residence for women who are being released from incarceration and who wish to pursue a new direction in life based on their Christian faith. Grace Home provides an alternative that allows them to avoid returning to the unhealthy environments of their past. Christian values, confidentiality, and a commitment to a new life are the foundations of the program. The services provided here are for women who desire a Christian structured home environment and who demonstrate their sincerity by cooperating with guidelines established for the purpose of enriching their life experiences.

Please contact one of the following individuals to arrange a tour of Grace Home and/or to discuss with them the goals and objectives of the residence program.

Dawn Cummings Email: Dawn@pacm-nc.org
Robin Thorne Email: Robin@pacm-nc.org

ReEntry Life Skills is a PACM ministry. Operating inside of the NCCIW Minimum Custody Unit in Raleigh, NC, ReEntry Life Skills is a faith-based transition Initiative that is designed to help students face the challenges of life they will encounter when they are released from prison to rejoin their families and communities.

The teaching modules are furnished by Jobs for Life and Women of Worth Fellowship. Class size is ten students, with a champion/mentor assigned to each student. Classes are facilitated by a team of four instructors and a class coordinator.

Classes focus on topics such as accepting responsibilities, overcoming obstacles to success, taking pride in work, money management, interactive relationship development, goal setting, writing resumes, how to budget, etc. These topics are in our curriculum along with the comprehensive Jobs for Life curriculum.

The ReEntry team is committed to serving our students with excellence in instruction and providing Biblical principles by which to live.

Prison Aftercare Christian Ministries

"For if they fall, one will lift up his fellow. But woe to him who is alone and has not another to lift him up!"

Ecclesiastes 4:10



Prison Aftercare Christian Ministries
PO Box 18332
Raleigh, NC 27619

E-mail: info@pacm-nc.org

We're on the web at:
www.pacm-nc.org

Visit Grace Home During Boylan Heights ArtWalk Festival

Contributed by Dawn Cummings

Grace Home is once again participating as a host in the annual Boylan Heights ArtWalk. The event will be held in the historic Boylan Heights district on Sunday, December 4th from noon till 5:00 p.m. Grace Home, located on South Boylan Avenue, will have an Open House during at that time and would love to have you come take a tour of the home and hear about our ministry firsthand!

This is the 24th year of the Boylan Heights ArtWalk. Over 100 artists and craftsmen will be selling a variety of glasswork, jewelry, metalwork, woodwork, textiles, clothing, ceramics, photography, multimedia, paintings, drawings and other forms of art from the porches, yards, and sidewalks. Food will be available to purchase as well. So come stroll the neighborhood Sunday afternoon, December 4th, and take a tour of Grace Home too! We hope to see you there!



Boylan Heights ArtWalk

(Grace Home is in the background just to the left of the brick home)